

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica, wherein said silica has the following properties: characterized by

BET surface area	178 - 302 m ² /g ,
CTAB surface area	≥170 m ² /g ,
DBP number	200 - 300 g/(100 g) , <u>and</u>
Sears number V ₂	10-35 ml/ (5 g) .

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1, wherein the CTAB surface area is not more than 300 m²/g.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~, having a WK coefficient of ≤3.4 (ratio of the peak height of the particles which cannot be broken down by ultrasound in the size range 1.0 - 100 μm, to the peak height of the broken-down particles in the size range <1.0 μm).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The A precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3, whose~~ wherein the surfaces of said silica have been modified with organosilanes of the formulae I to III:



or

$\text{SiR}_n^1 (\text{RO})_{3-n}$ (Alkenyl) (III),

wherein ~~where~~

B is -SCN, -SH, -Cl, -NH₂, -OC(O)CHCH₂, -OC(O)C(CH₃)CH₂ (if q = 1) or -Sw- (if q = 2), B being bonded chemically to Alk,

R and R¹ are aliphatic, olefinic, aromatic or arylaromatic radicals having 2-30 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by the following groups: hydroxyl, amino, alkoxide, cyanide, thiocyanide, halogen, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, acrylate, meth-acrylate, organosilane radicals, and wherein ~~it being possible for~~ R and R¹ may ~~to~~ have an identical or different definition or substitution,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

Alk is a divalent unbranched or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

m is 0 or 1,

Ar is an aryl radical having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms, ~~preferably 6 carbon atoms~~[[,]] which may be substituted by the following groups: hydroxyl, amino, alkoxide, cyanide, thiocyanide, halogen, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, organosilane radicals,

p is 0 or 1, with the proviso that p and n are not simultaneously 0,

q is 1 or 2,

w is a number from 2 to 8,

r is 1, 2 or 3, with the proviso that r + n + m + p = 4,

Alkyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, ~~preferably from 2 to 8 carbon atoms~~ and

Alkenyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms ~~preferably from 2 to 8 carbon atoms~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a precipitated silica having the following properties: a

BET surface area	178 - 302 m ² /g ,
CTAB surface area	≥170 m ² /g ,
DBP number	200 - 300 g/(100 g) ,
Sears number V ₂	10-35 ml/(5 g) ;

wherein said process comprises: in which

a) introducing, as an initial charge, an aqueous solution of an alkali metal silicate or alkaline earth metal silicate and/or of an organic and/or inorganic base with pH 7.0 - 8.5 ~~is introduced as initial charge,~~

b) adding, simultaneously by metered addition, waterglass and an acidifier ~~are metered simultaneously into the~~ this initial charge, with stirring at 55 - 95°C for 10 - 120 minutes,

e) acidifying the mixture ~~is acidified~~ with an acidifier to a pH of approximately 3.5, and

f) filtering and drying the acidified mixture ~~is filtered and dried.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5, further comprising which comprises carrying out between steps b) and e) the following steps: of

c) stopping of the metered addition for 30-90 minutes, during which the temperature is maintained, and

d) adding, simultaneous simultaneously by metered addition, of waterglass and an acidifier at the same temperature with stirring for 20 - 120 minutes.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the acidifier and/or the waterglass in steps b) and d), each have the same concentration or rate of addition.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the acidifier and/or the waterglass in steps b) and d), each have a different concentration or rate of addition.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein[[,]] ~~where~~ the acidifier and/or the waterglass have the same concentration in steps b) and d), and their rate of addition in step d) is 125 - 140% of the rate of addition in step b).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 9~~, wherein drying is carried out using a pneumatic conveying drier, spray drier, rack drier, belt drier, rotary tube drier, flash drier, spin-flash drier or nozzle tower.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 10~~, wherein drying is followed by granulation with a roll compactor.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 11~~, wherein during steps b) and/or d), an organic or inorganic salt is added.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 12~~, wherein the precipitated silica is granulated or ungranulated, and wherein the granulated or ungranulated precipitated silica is ~~silicas are~~ modified with organosilanes in mixtures of from 0.5 to 50 parts per 100 parts of precipitated silica[[,]] ~~in particular from 1 to 15 parts per 100 parts of precipitated silica, and~~ the reaction between precipitated silica and organosilane ~~is being~~ carried out during the preparation of the mixture (in situ), or outside by spray application and subsequent thermal conditioning of the mixture, or by mixing the organosilane and the silica suspension with subsequent drying and thermal conditioning.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An elastomeric blend, a vulcanized rubber blend or a vulcanizate, each ~~Elastomer blends, vulcanizable rubber blends or vulcanizates~~ comprising the precipitated silica of claim 1, and one or more polymeric resins ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A tire ~~Tires~~ comprising the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1, and one or more rubbers or elastomers ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The tire as claimed in claim 15, wherein said tire is a commercial vehicle tire ~~Tires for commercial vehicles, comprising precipitated silica as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The tire as claimed in claim 15, wherein said tire is a motorbike tire ~~Motorbike tires comprising precipitated silica as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The tire as claimed in claim 15, wherein said tire is a high-speed vehicle tire ~~Tires for high-speed vehicles, comprising precipitated silica as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4.~~

Claim 19 (New): A vehicle, comprising the tire of claim 15, and a body frame.

Claim 20 (New): An article, comprising the elastomeric blend, the vulcanized rubber blend or the vulcanizate of claim 14, and one or more additives.